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Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of Special Rapporteurs and representatives

Mission report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Note by the Secretary-General**

1. In its resolution 2002/14, adopted without a vote on 19 April 2002 and approved by Economic and Social Council decision 2002/248 of 25 July 2002, the Commission on Human Rights recalled its decision to request the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out a joint mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while regretting that the security situation had not yet allowed such a mission.

2. In the same resolution, the Commission on Human Rights decided to request the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out, as soon as security considerations permitted and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) between 1996 and 1997, a joint mission to investigate all massacres carried out on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those in the province of South Kivu and other atrocities referred to in the various reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a view

* A/57/150.

** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, paragraph 8, this document is submitted late in order to include additional updated information.

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to bringing to justice those responsible, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session.

3. The Commission on Human Rights also decided to request the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the joint mission, to enable them to discharge their mandates fully, and to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide appropriate technical expertise to enable the joint mission to fulfil its mandate.

4. The new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iulia Motoc, went to Kinshasa from 14 to 19 February 2002 for her first visit since her appointment in November 2001. On that occasion, she had preliminary consultations with the Government in order to determine the extent to which the latter would support the work of the mission.

5. She also intends to make contact with the rebel groups in order to obtain their support for the mission and ensure conditions of security on the ground.

6. In any event, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has initiated a process of consultations with the other members of the joint mission to ascertain their availability.

7. All relevant information will be found in the next report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session.